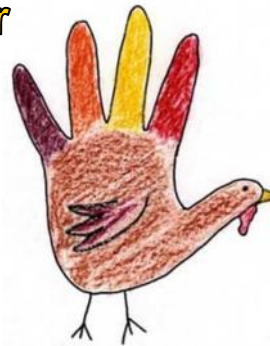


Madison County Horticulture Newsletter

Pay Dirt



HORTICULTURE

November 2011

Hello Horticulturalists!

Thanksgiving already! Where has this year gone? Don't forget those who are less fortunate than yourself this holiday season, there are a lot of hungry people, even here in Madison County.

Already feeling stressed by the holidays? Try to relax this Thanksgiving and try to remember all the things you have to be thankful for. My guess is the list is longer than you think.

Sincerely,

Amanda Sears
County Extension Agent
for Horticulture
amanda.sears@uky.edu



Madison County Herb Club

Monday, November 14 at 6 pm

The Madison County Herb Club will be holding their Thanksgiving potluck. Everyone is welcome, please bring a covered dish or dessert, and bring a friend!

(The Herb Club will not meet in December.)

Gardeners of Madison County

Monday, November 21 at 6:30 pm

Members and guests will be able to create their own terrariums. You will need to bring a glass container with a cover – make sure the opening is large enough to allow access for planting. Plants and planting supplies will be furnished. There is a \$5 plant and supplies fee for nonmembers. If you have questions, contact Nancy Haseleu at 859-779-0776.

Grower/Buyer Meeting

A meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 29th, 7 to 9 p.m.** at the Madison County Extension Office, in the Annex building.

This meeting is open to anyone interested in buying or selling locally produced farm products. This would include farmers, restaurants, schools, or stores. This is a good opportunity for growers to find out what local buyers would like to purchase if it were available. You will be able to ask questions of the buyers and exchange contact information with those with whom you might like to do business.

You will need to register for this meeting by calling Brenda Evans at 859-624-8180 or by email at eatlocal.growlocal@gmail.com. Please provide your name, and email address or phone number.



Coming Soon To Your Backyard, Another Invasive Species!

By Robin Reams, Kentucky Master Gardener

I bet you think I'm going to write about bush honeysuckle, or purple loosestrife, or garlic mustard. But you're wrong. I'm going to talk about birds! Bird watching is tangential to being a gardener. I'm sure I'm not the only one whose bird books sit right next to the garden books.

One of my favorite native species is the Mourning Dove, whose baleful sound is familiar from my Kentucky childhood. "Rain crow!" we would say, as the sky darkened with clouds and the doves heralded the coming of a storm. Living in town later, I enjoyed the cooing of feral pigeons (Rock Dove). I became addicted to the BBC and noticed the constant cooing of doves in the background on many of their TV programs. When I returned to rural Kentucky, I was back with the Mourning Dove. I told my husband that I missed the cooing of the pigeons and wanted to get doves for the noise they make. He said, "We have doves." "I want doves that sound like the ones on the BBC," I said. I was even plotting to capture feral pigeons and relocate them to our house. I know, I know, rats with wings, they make a mess, etc...

One day I heard a different sound, a dove, but not a Mourning Dove. I grabbed the binoculars and located a bird similar to a Mourning Dove, but with a half collar on its neck. After some research on the internet, I identified the Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), with its distinctive call of "coo COO coo". Hear an example at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJNIETs9Gcs>.



The Eurasian Collared Dove has a distinctive call.

Originally indigenous to temperate and subtropical Asia, the Collared Dove expanded across Europe in the 20th Century, reaching Great Britain in the 1950's. The Collared Dove was introduced into the Bahamas in the 1970's and reached Florida around 1982. The stronghold in the U.S. is still the Gulf Coast, but it has spread northward and westward.

Collared Doves typically feed and breed close to human habitation. The female lays 2 white eggs in a stick nest which is usually located in a tree. The female incubates the nest during the night and the male incubates the nest during the day. 3-4 broods per year is common. Extremely hardy, the species is non-migratory. Its main food is grain and it will happily graze at your bird feeder during the winter.

The Collared Dove can eventually develop into large flocks, but so far little ecological impact has been noted. This bird appears to fill a niche between the Mourning Dove and the Rock Dove, perhaps replacing the extinct Passenger Pigeon. Rumor has it that they are tasty. But please don't kill and eat them. I like the noise!

America Recycles Day

America Recycles Day is November 15, 2011. Help celebrate by taking advantage of nature's way of recycling by composting! Materials like fruit and vegetable waste, coffee and tea grounds, sawdust, shredded newspaper, yard clippings, and leaves can all be composted. Items to avoid and NOT include in your compost bin include black walnut tree leaves and twigs, coal or charcoal ash, dairy products, diseased or insect-ridden plants, fats, greases, oils, meats, fish bones, pet wastes, and yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides.



Recycle your fruit and veggie waste by composting!

Disease Control in the Perennial Garden Page 3

When looking at the perennial flower garden at the end of the season, you may notice the blighted peonies, the browning daylilies, the wilted hostas, and the leaf-spotted iris. It sometimes seems that plant diseases in the garden got out of hand this past year. The observant gardener may recall that many of these same diseases were in the garden the previous year. For many diseases, there is definitely a connection. Plant diseases are caused by microbes such as fungi, bacteria, nematodes, phytoplasmas, and viruses. At the end of a growing season, many of these microbes go dormant, hibernating in the dead plants that they probably had a hand in killing. In many cases, one could eradicate these diseases by destroying the plants in which they live.

Remove any dead or diseased perennial plant material after a hard freeze has killed the foliage. Cutting out and destroying or composting all the old leaves, stems and vegetation of perennials in the garden gets rid of next year's sources of blights, leaf spots and stem decays. For some diseases, roots and soil need to be gently lifted with a spading fork and destroyed. What about composting? In general, diseased plant material can be composted and added back to the garden without much fear of re-contamination provided that composting is done correctly and that the wastes are completely decomposed to humus.



Peony flower with a case of leaf blotch

American Smoketree



If you are in the market for a small to medium sized tree and fall color is a priority, consider American Smoketree or Chittamwood. Native to limestone areas in the south central United States, American smoketree has some of the most spectacular fall color of our indigenous species.

The 20-30' medium tree or extremely large shrub has a fairly rapid growth rate and features the same type of fluffy seed heads that give the more common European Smoketree its name. The leaves are large 5-6" ovals that are quite attractive even when green. The true spectacle occurs in the fall when the leaves turn brilliant shades of yellow, red, orange or some combination of the three. Most smoke trees offered for sale are grown from seed so fall color is

variable. You may want to try to buy one when in color to improve your chances of having a showy specimen.

Like so many other highly desirable things, American Smoketree may not be the easiest plant to locate. Start by calling local nurseries who offer unusual or native plants and if you aren't successful there turn to the internet. If you should successfully procure one of these gems be prepared for all the inquiries about your tree with the glowing fall color.

(Source: Jamie Dockery, Fayette County Extension Horticulture Agent)



What Did the Pilgrims Eat at the First Thanksgiving?

There is only one account written at the time of the actual feast. All that is specifically mentioned is deer and waterfowl. Most likely they also dined on cabbage, onions, corn, and squash, as well as other foods recently harvested from their gardens. They also could have enjoyed wild nuts and berries gathered in the nearby forest.

Believe it or not, turkey was not even specifically mentioned as being eaten at the first Thanksgiving! Also, potatoes had not yet been introduced to North America, so no mashed potatoes. They also did not have sugar or the ingredients to make crust, so no cakes or pies either!



Horticulture Classes

Growing For Market

Monday, November 14, 2011 - 6 pm to 8 pm
Madison County Extension Office

This class will go over ideas to help with the transition to selling produce. Topics will include cost-share programs for marketing available through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, as well as step by step methods of growing the most profitable crops for market and common issues associated with them. Speakers will be Adam Watson with the Kentucky Department of Ag, and Dr. Tim Coolong with UK.

If you plan to attend, please call 859-623-4072 to register. We need at least 10 to hold this class.

What is a CSA?

Tuesday, December 13, 2011 - 6 pm to 7 pm
Madison County Extension Office

A Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program is a paid-up-front subscriber program for a season of produce delivery or pick-up. Brenda Evans, who ran a CSA for 10 years, describes basic set-up and running a CSA, and also discusses different types of CSAs.

Call 859-623-4072 to register.

Heart Felt Holidays



Family and Consumer Sciences Program Assistants Karen Grant and Cheri Stacy will again be sharing their ideas for simple, inexpensive holiday gift giving. Visit them at any of the dates and places below to see how to make your holiday gift giving a little easier. **Please note: these are displays, not workshops, so you may stop by to see the display at your convenience during the times listed below.** There will be examples of handmade crafts and gifts from the kitchen, inexpensive decorating ideas, and money saving tips for a stress free holiday.



Richmond Library - December 2nd - 1 pm to 3 pm

Berea Seniors - December 5th - 10 am to 11 am

Kroger's - December 7th - 9 am to 12 noon

Richmond Seniors - December 8th - 12 noon to 1 pm

Berea Library - December 9th - 1 pm to 3 pm



Got Questions? We've Got Answers

- Soil Testing
 - Insect Identification
 - Plant Disease Diagnosis
 - Plant Identification
- For Horticulture questions, please contact me at 859-623-4072, or e-mail, amanda.sears@uky.edu.
You may also stop by and visit me at the Madison County Extension Center.